

**What is claimed is:**

*Sub A 15*

1. A digital content encryption apparatus, comprising:
  - 2 a first server maintaining an approved website database comprising a list of the web sites
  - 3 determined to be authorized sources of files for digital storage devices manufactured to use a key to
  - 4 decrypt and play the files, said first server being connectable to an Internet, and:
    - 5 when prompted by a user via a computer or an Internet enabled digital storage device,
    - 6 making a query to determine whether a submitted IP address supplied by the user is on said
    - Approved Web Site Database;
    - when a determination is made that said submitted IP address is on the Approved Web
    - Site Database, generating encryption key and encryption information that is unique to a
    - selected file requested by the user to be downloaded and to any device to which it is being
    - downloaded and transmits it to the Software Program; and
    - transmits unique encryption key/encoding, information to the Software Program when
    - the Software Program requests one for the purpose of encoding digital content that is being
    - copied from a media storage peripheral device onto the device's own digital storage memory;
    - 15 a personal computer comprised of a memory storing a software program comprised
    - 16 of the steps of:
      - 17 identifying the IP address from which a file is being downloaded;
      - 18 sending a query to said first server to determine whether an IP address is on the
      - Approved Web Site Database;

20                   retrieving encryption key from said first server when the IP address is on the  
21                   Approved Web Site Database;

22                   encrypting the downloaded file on its own or using the encryption key provided by  
23                   said first server;

24                   requesting unique encryption code/key from said central server and/or generates own  
25                   encryption key for the purpose of encrypting digital content being copied from a PC  
26                   peripheral onto a memory of said personal computer; and

27                   initializing a digital storage device to download and play/display encrypted files  
28                   downloaded from said personal computer; and

29                   a digital storage device with a PC interface, connectable to said personal computer,  
30                   accommodates retrieval by said Software Program from information stored by said digital storage  
31                   device, stores download files received through the user interface of the PC Software Program,  
32                   retrieves encryption keys from said Software Program for downloaded files, plays and displays only  
33                   files that are encrypted in conformity with said encryption code/key, and refuses to play and display  
34                   files in an unencrypted format.